

FAQ's

Q: What is the Blue Moon Trail Run?

A: The BMTR is an event for people of all ages and abilities with a focus on community, challenge, environment and celebration. Featured is a 5K, 8K and 10K race that, save a 50' stretch of pavement, is run exclusively along a trail in Colorado Springs' beautiful Piñon Valley and Ute Valley parks. With undulating hills and scenic, panoramic vistas, each participant will play the part of harrier that perhaps has not been experienced since the days of high school or collegiate cross country, if at all. Additionally, three races of 400m, 800m and 1.3 miles distance will be offered to all kids under age 12. Following all races, participants will be treated to a post-race performance. Items for purchase from food trucks and a Kona Ice truck will be on site at each race as well, with each series entrant receiving a \$5 coupon towards any purchase.

Q: When is this year's race?

A: The BMTR became a 3-part summer series in 2015 and will be held in 2021 Friday evenings on May 28, June 25 and July 23. Kids races will begin at 5:30 p.m. and are followed by the adult races at 6 p.m. Competitors have the option of choosing a short series (5K each time) or progressive series (5K, 8K, 10K). All races start and finish at the same location – Piñon Valley Park.

Q: What is the race course?

A: All races are staged within Piñon Valley Park, 5585 Mule Deer Road 80919. The 400m and 800m kids race course is contained within the park, with the adult races and long kids race traveling into adjacent Ute Valley Park. The 5K follows a single counterclockwise loop, with a small additional loop added for the 8K and a double, varied counter clockwise loops for the 10K. Supporting you along the course will be marshals familiar with the park. Additionally, prominent signage, flour arrows and orange ribbon will be placed strategically throughout the course to allow you to focus on the running and the scenery versus the trail turns. Water stations, if permitted by public health protocol, will be provided as well along the course, at approximately Miles 2, 3 and 6.

Q: How did the race get its name?

A: The inaugural BMTR took place the Friday evening of Labor Day weekend, which happened to be under the ambient light of the second full moon of August 2012, known commonly as a blue moon. Beyond this rare astronomical phenomenon, our goal is to provide all participants with a race experience that is as rare in its greatness as its namesake is to the calendar. 2021 marks the 10th running of the event!

Q: How can I register?

A: Online registration takes place at www.coloradosprings.gov/bluemoon and continues through the Wednesday prior to each race day. Race day registration will take place beginning at 4:30 p.m. at the Piñon Valley Park pavilion for \$45 (cash or check, payable to "City of Colorado Springs").

Q: How does packet pickup work?

A: All pickup will take place on race day at the Piñon Valley Park pavilion, beginning at 4:30 p.m. Bibs may also be picked up at Runners Roost, 121 N. Tejon Street, during store hours on Wednesday and Thursday of race week, and between 10 a.m.-noon on race day. Ask store employees about BMTR specials if you pay them a visit.

Q: How is the timing being managed?

A: All competitors in the races will receive a race bib with an attached chip. Timing will be managed with a state-of-the-art system owned and operated by Pikes Peak Road Runners. This same system has been used in such notable venues as the Pikes Peak Ascent and Marathon and ADTM Marathon. In addition, a race clock will be prominently displayed at the finish line in Piñon Valley Park. Kids' races will be untimed.

Q: It can be very hot in the summer months – should I be concerned? And what if the weather turns?

A: Though taking place during the warmest days of the year, evening race temperatures average a comfortable 75 degrees at race time, dipping down to the 60's in the hours that follow. Rain won't deter the race from taking place unless it creates unsafe, muddy conditions that could contribute to injury and/or damage to park trails. Lightning and hail will necessitate a delay and cancelation if it does not dissipate. Use of weather apps and consultation with park rangers will help inform this decision. Poor, unsafe conditions within Ute Valley Park in the hours leading up to the race may lead to a rerouted course to dryer areas and a course that is slightly shorter or longer than the official route.

Q: Won't it be getting dark?

A: Yes it will. With dusk occurring at around 8 p.m. and full darkness settling in by 8:30 p.m., there is certainly incentive to move along the course in deliberate fashion. For all those concerned about finding yourself in the park sans light, it is recommended that you carry along a headlamp or flashlight and orient yourself with the race course beforehand.

Q: Where can I park?

A: Situated within a residential neighborhood, Piñon Valley, there is ample street side parking within the general vicinity of the park but no parking lot(s) specifically designated. While carpooling is advised, we anticipate that there will be sufficient space to accommodate all vehicles.

Q: Is this race a benefit or a for-profit event?

A: In contrast to many of the fad running events e.g. color, mud that are managed by businesses outside of the city and state, the BMTR is a local event proudly presented by the City of Colorado Springs Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department. All net proceeds will stay within the city, with race registration proceeds to support city-managed community center programs and services.

Q: What kind of SWAG will I receive?

A: Beyond a first-rate race experience, all competitors will receive, upon finishing their respective races, a post-race performance. Series entrants will each receive a \$5 coupon valid towards the purchase of food or beverage trucks that will be on site at each race. Due to COVID-19 there will not be the traditional post-race meal in 2021. In addition, all series finishers will receive a commemorative keepsake following the completion of the third race. An in celebrating the event's 10th running, retro SWAG will be on hand and made available to finishers at each race.

Q: What prizes and awards will the race have?

A: Overall winners in each race will receive a unique, custom award as well as comp entry into the 2022 race series. Age division winners are one, two or three-deep, depending on participation, in 10-year increments for all runners who compete in all three races, with winners receiving an award. Age divisions are: 19 and under, 20-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59, 60-69, 70+. Series award winners will be posted at the race soon after its completion and posted on the Pikes Peak Road Runners website that same evening. Due to COVID-19, no in-person ceremony will take place at the race site in 2021. Attempts will be made to provide awards to individuals on site to the degree possible. Unclaimed awards can be picked up at Runners Roost through August 13.

Q: Where can I find race results?

A: Results will be posted soon after the race concludes and posted on the Pikes Peak Road Runners (www.pprun.org).

Q: Regarding COVID-19, what protocol will be implemented?

A: Guidance from national, state and local leaders, including the Center for Disease Control (CDC), Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) and El Paso County Public Health (EPCPH) will be considered, with EPCPH reviewing and approving event plans based, that will subject to modification based on the current status of the county respective to the virus. Please visit the website for updates on protocol.

CDC: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

CDPHE: <https://covid19.colorado.gov/outdoor-events>

EPCPH: <https://www.elpasocountyhealth.org/>

Q: When nature calls, do you have an answer?

A: For your comfort, portable toilets will be located on the north side of the park, to the east of the permanent restroom.

Q: Are measures being taken to limit waste and impact on the environment?

A: Absolutely. In addition to seeking to present pristine city parks, we wish to generate as little waste as possible. Efforts taken in this regard include providing a reusable, commemorative glass for beverages, utilization of single-stream recycling canisters, inclusion of repurposed signage and a focus on electronic versus paper marketing. We appreciate in advance your assistance in supporting this effort. Please consider carpooling or, if a nearby resident, walking to the event.

Q: Who are the primary sponsors of this year's race?

A: In addition to the City of Colorado Springs Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department, who is coordinating the event, sponsors include:

- American Trail Running Association (ATRA) – endorsement as ATRA certified course
- Pikes Peak Road Runners – marketing, timing, results support
- Springs Dentistry – financial sponsorship
- Cultural Office of the Pikes Peak Region (COPPeR) – financial sponsorship
- Runners Roost – Course design support, awards pickup location

Q: What if I have questions not addressed here and want to speak to a live person for answers?

A: Please call the Race Director, Brian Kates, at 385-7942 or email him at brian.kates@coloradosprings.gov.



